



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 21, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

District Man Sentenced to More Than 10 Years in Prison on Theft and Gun Charges – Gun Was Found in Defendant’s Backpack, With Gloves and Duct Tape –

WASHINGTON - Thaddeus Fletcher, 51, has been sentenced to 10 years of incarceration for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, and to 180 days of incarceration for stealing two diamond bracelets from his ex-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Fletcher, of Washington, D.C., previously pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and to second degree theft. Because he has a prior conviction for a crime of violence – both rape and assault with intent to murder – the firearm charge carried a three-year mandatory minimum sentence. The 10-year sentence, imposed by the Honorable Judge Russell F. Canan on January 20, 2011, was seven years above the mandatory minimum. Judge Canan also sentenced Fletcher to 180 days of incarceration for second degree theft, the maximum for that offense.

Once he completes his prison term, Fletcher will be on three years of supervised release.

According to the statement of facts in the plea agreement and evidence submitted by the government at sentencing, Fletcher stole two gold and diamond tennis bracelets from his ex-girlfriend’s jewelry box on July 24, 2010. On September 4, 2010, he went to her home and said that he would give her the bracelets back in exchange for \$800.

Fletcher then drove to a bank with his ex-girlfriend, carrying a black backpack. The victim went into the bank to get the \$800, but alerted security to the situation instead. Members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) arrived on the scene and detained Fletcher. The victim then went through his backpack looking for her bracelets. At that time, she discovered a semi-automatic pistol loaded with eight rounds of ammunition. The pistol was inside a cap wrapped in Fletcher’s work pants. The victim also found duct tape and gloves in the backpack.

Page -2-

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended MPD Officers Shauntelle Anderson, Tirik Davis, Andre Davis, and Detective Benjamin Oh. He also expressed his appreciation to Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, Paralegal Jason Manuel, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridget Fitzpatrick, who investigated the case.

11-023

###